

## Abstract

2         Stented tubular grafts of expanded, sintered polytetrafluoroethylene  
3 (PTFE). The stented PTFE grafts of the present invention include an integrally  
4 stented embodiment, an externally stented embodiment, and an internally stented  
5 embodiment. In each embodiment, the stent may be either self-expanding or  
6 pressure-expandable. Also, in each embodiment, the stent may be coated or  
7 covered with a plastic material capable of being affixed (e.g., heat fused) to PTFE.  
8 Manufacturing methods are also disclosed by the individual components of the  
9 stented grafts are preassembled on a mandrel and are subsequently heated to  
10 facilitate attachment of the PTFE layer(s) to one another and/or to the stent.  
11 Optionally, the stented graft may be post-flexed and post-expanded following it's  
12 removal from the mandrel to ensure that the stented graft will be freely radially  
13 expandable and/or radially contractible over it's full intended range of diameters.